Haines House

Haines, Alaska

Conducted by

The Board of National Missions

of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.

Harriett A. Lawrence, Director

ANSWERED
SEP 13 1938
NOTED By

Sept.3,1938.

My dear Lima Presbyterial Friends;-

Climatic changes and radio messages make me often wonder how you are. Many of our summer days have been cloudy and cool, resulting in late planting of gardens and their slow growth.During the last three weeks,it has been very hot and dry-good days to be o out of doors building strong bodies to resist the cold and dampness of winter.The children feel that they are days for berrying and swimming and consequently have spent many happy hours that way.

The blueberrying has taken all day several times when we enjoyed a picnic lunch.Forces had to be divided sometimesbecause the older boys were needed to weed in the garden or help with the hay.This week they have been busy helping fill the silo with oats and peas.The little boys and all girlshave gathered peas from the trucks and wagon for our tables so that we have had peas in some dish daily this week.Several days earlier in the summer we drove out to Martin's Ranch,about seven miles,to pick peas-a tubful at a time.Yesterday two boys went to another ranch and helped pick rhubarb.They had a good time playing that the leaves were hats or umbrellas.

It is a pleasure to have all the children up and fit to enter into the joys of this wonderful country which God has given them and us.The Home is quite a contrast to the Mumps Time or even Chickenpox time which followed since the New Year.We were glad to check the chickenpox before many were exposed,avoiding the weakening of their bodies.Wish I knew more about eyes-am treating little Will's eyes according to doctor's orders.He doesn't complain of pain and is very patient concerning time it requires.When one sees so manyNatives with impaired eyesight,you wish you could do more to save it.A new experience in the Dispensary this summer was teaching a four year old how to blow his nose-a very new experience to him apparently.Of course,many have needed training in keeping their nose clean but he kept saying:"Make it come down?I can't." He kept trying until finally he does quite well.That made me realize how many blessings we have received from Christian homes and environment that we often take for granted and pass them by lightly and ungratefully.

One of our greatest physical blessings this summer is the Refrigerating Plant made possible thru a gift of Miss Lawrence's twin brother and her home church.Food can be kept longer in good condition. Though we livw where snow and ice are visible all the year,many times it is difficult to secure ice during the hottest days.If only the water was "on" all the time,that would that would keep thw milk cool for the water is cool enough to drink without ice.We are anticipating having that difficulty removed if all goes well.Last week the town voted to be bonded for a new water system.

Another summer blessing ,in the Home and Community,was the presence of Miss Lawrence's two nieces.They are the two younger daughters of the brother who made our refrigerating plant.We were glad they could see the construction and the help it gives us.Both girls helped in the church work-Laura had an enthusuastic Christian Endeavor in the manse and Harriet had a Sunday School class besides helping in Daily Vacation Bible School at the Cannery.Later she startedthe Scouts with our older girls and the white girls in the community.They went camping with our girls and one night with the white girls.Laura tutored a group of our children part of the summer. There were so many helpful things being done daily that their LIVING influenced many.How we wish there were many more such Christian girls.

The cleaning and pressing of clothes just before our children (five)left for Sitka and Sheldon Jackson School reminded me of some days when I relieved the Boys'Supervisor for hermonth's vacation.I was teaching one boyhow to clean and press his Sunday suit and the proper way to keep it hung up to keep it in better condition.The first thing we knew one boy after another came in to press something and the youngest were patting and folding their best clothes trying to hang them correctly.Scrubbing floors andcleaning rooms met with same enthusiam from most of them.Of course some would rather learn to do what they see men doing-a big job.It is a progressive game at Haines House for always the older ones are leaving and younger ones coming to replace them.Our hearts ache when we realize their home conditions are made so frequently through liquor-so much suffering and so many deaths directly or indirectly from it.

If what we hear through radio and newspaper is true,the government is taking steps to investigate the liquor and tuberculosus condition in Alaska andwe can hope for improvements.But as one man said,"That will not ~~###~~ save them this year as the canneries close and Natives are paid from spending their money for liquor."If we are able to train our children so that they are "Total abstainers" and trust in God for strength to resist temptations,we shall have had a part in bringing a better day to these people with whom we work for the Master.

May the Master bless you in your living for Him.

Sincerely,

L. Blanche Horner.